

City of Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council Summary Report

Gangs and Neighborhood Safety

Background:

In December 2008, the City of Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council embarked on a process to engage the community in a dialogue about diversity, inclusivity and steps the Council could take to truly reach their Mission and Vision:

VISION STATEMENT

Wenatchee is a community where diversity is welcomed, valued and celebrated.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Diversity Advisory Council advocates recognition, respect, inclusion and celebration of the greater Wenatchee area's diverse people

The Council sought to engage community input in order to craft an Inclusive Community strategy incorporating a combination of town hall meetings, focus groups, training opportunities with partner organizations and a community survey through which they hoped to understand the issues in Wenatchee. Each Town Hall meeting was to be a gathering with an element of education and an opportunity to take public input. The purpose of the meetings is not to have the Diversity Council take a lead in the issue and its solution, but simply to be a means of having the issue come to light and to encourage the engagement of community agencies, organizations and individuals to assume leadership and involvement to work towards solutions

In 2009, the Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council partnered with the Wenatchee School District and Wenatchee High School to hold a Town Hall meeting titled: Empowering Our Community - Gangs and Neighborhood Safety. As a result of this meeting, the Diversity Council was asked to hold several additional meetings, identify the issues and provide recommendations for how the community can find a way to deal with this very difficult issue that has affected a cross section of the community.

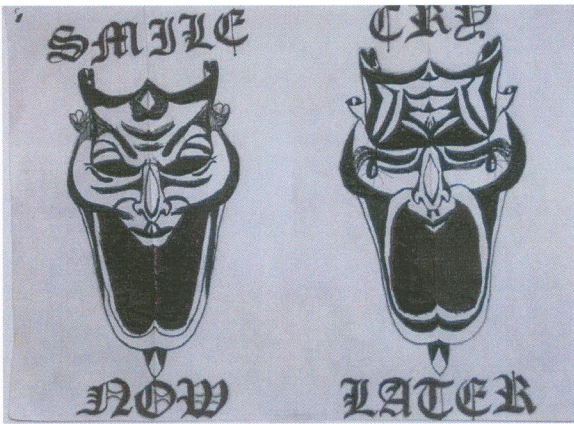
This paper will serve to provide an overview of the meetings and recommendations in order to spur on community action. It should be noted that over 300 community members participated in these various meetings and the sentiment shared was that this was a community issue that needs to be addressed on many levels.

Meetings:

Three meetings were held: October 27, 2009 at Wenatchee High School and November 17, 2009 and January 14, 2010 at the Wenatchee Community Center.

Each meeting had a specific purpose:

- In October, the goal was to provide an overview of the issue and educate the community about the current extent, primary participants and identifying markers concerning the issue, along with what was being done, and organizations that could be a resource for community members dealing with the issue. A Resource Guide for community organizations was put together and distributed at the meeting.
- The November meeting was designed as a follow up meeting to further define the issue and brainstorm what was working, what was not working and what was needed in the community. At this meeting examples of gang symbols in clothing and graffiti were shared (and photos appear in this report) to help further educate the community to recognize the signs.
- In January, the goal was to review the results of the brainstorming session and identify priority recommendations for the community and community organizations that may play a role in helping to take on the issue.



Findings:

The goal of the **October meeting** was to provide education, identify existing resources and survey the meeting participants about their perceptions. Representatives of the Wenatchee School District, Chelan County Juvenile Detention, Wenatchee Police and Community Organizations provided an overview of the issues they are dealing with and their typical interventions. Examples were provided of how to identify gang involvement and how these agencies are responding. Helpful information was provided for community resources. As a result, there were numerous comments, and a willingness of the community to get involved and become a part of the solution. It is this momentum that carried into the other meetings. It was clear that an ongoing mechanism for regular factual communication was needed. The comments, survey and survey results are in Section 1 of the appendix of this document.

The **November meeting** provided an exhaustive list of those elements that are working, not working, and recommendations for what is needed. It was clear that “suppression” strategies (see “Gang Suppression and Intervention: Problem and Response by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/gangprob.pdf) appear the predominant and most effective strategies thus far in the community. In addition, although it was evident that there are many programs that are providing assistance in the community, there are still many needs

to be addressed that cross over from school district to community, and community on both sides of the river. In fact, the OJJDP study cited above underscores the fact that a unidimensional professional approach, interagency networking and a comprehensive community-centered approach to the issue seems to be the most effective.

The **November meeting** also identified the importance and criticality of access to more information for community members and the need for more flexibility in how we deal with gang members in school and outside of school in the community. There were numerous ideas generated for needed activities/programs in the areas of prevention and intervention as well as suppression which fell within one of the five basic strategy areas in dealing with youth gangs cited by the OJJDP study above: 1. neighborhood mobilization, 2. social intervention, especially youth outreach and work with the three types of members associated with gangs which are "wannabees," peripheral or fringe members, and core members/regulars, 3. provision for social and economic opportunities, such as special school and job programs, 4. gang suppression and incarceration, 5. organizational development strategy such as police gang and specialized probation units. Ideas included programs such as parenting classes and school-based Personal Safety and Gang Prevention classes from 5th through 10th grade in addition to others that could provide assistance to the schools and community in dealing with the problem. One predominant theme of the Latino community participants worth noting was to have an easily identifiable and accessible phone number with welcoming Spanish-speaking receptionists to which they could anonymously report neighborhood safety and gang concerns without fear of reprisal and/or retaliation. Please see the Section 2 in the Appendix for the information collected at this meeting.



In **January**, the meeting focused on pulling together and reviewing all of this information with community participants and developing a prioritized list of needs, with the top nine being:

1. Graffiti removal – quickly and efficiently to remove the mark of gangs in our communities
2. Parenting classes - to help parents identify the issue in their home and find help for it so their kids will stay out of gangs
3. Funding – so that a valley wide cohesive program can be developed and staffed
4. Alternative, attractive programs for youth to keep them out of gangs
5. Continue these community meetings
6. Provide mentoring to help gang members find a way out
7. Develop more community pride
8. Develop more community togetherness in dealing with the issue
9. Provide more lighting so that communities can become crime free

Please see Section 3 of the Appendix for the prioritized lists from each of the focus groups at the meeting.

Communication seemed to be the consistent key factor that came up at all the meetings. From the existence of a phone line or tip line where citizens could call anonymously to provide information, to weekly public service announcements on the radio and in the newspaper, it was clear that meeting participants wanted to know what was happening and how they could help.



Recommendations:

The interest, momentum and enthusiasm engendered from these meetings should be sustained and a strong, cohesive, community based effort needs to be put into place that addresses several sectors of the community:

- A partnership of policing agencies and school officials to identify common interests and issues and potential prevention, intervention and suppression activities which can be developed and implemented
- A partnership of community agencies, policing/legal entities, and schools to create informed and engaged parents. It needs to ensure they are offered consistent and ongoing support in strongly dealing with issues they may face as potential parents of gang members and/or keeping their kids out of gangs.
- Ongoing, consistent and regular communication in English and Spanish amongst community agencies, schools and in the media about what is being done, new resources, new activities and programs, contact and access points

Conclusion: It is clear that this issue is very critical to the community. Regardless of age, race or community boundaries, each participant shared concern about making something happen to say gangs and violence are not allowed in our community. Meeting participants want to be a part of a process that would have results regardless of city or county boundaries. It is also clear that there are several broadly based community organizations that are willing to provide a piece of the solution. The City of Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council will host one more meeting on this issue this year on April 6th at 6pm at the Wenatchee Community Center to share the information gathered from the previous three meetings and to identify and encourage community based agencies/organizations which would like to take the lead on some of the topics addressed and to sustain and continue the momentum and efforts towards solutions on this issue.

"Empowering Communities" Workshop

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS RECEIVED

"Being a parent, I would like for all students from all schools to be able to wear uniforms. This will prevent Gangs. Thank you."

"Is it possible to put cameras in places where graffiti is common? What works? I think consequences should be beyond juvenile detentions or probation. Groups they must attend to prevent gangs or something of that line, because peer pressure is HUGE! This along with spending time in detention should help or encourage them."

"We need to educate gang members and wanna be gang members that belonging to a Gang may give security and status BUT...It is where they will be "STUCK" and NOT MOVE AHEAD in life! Fear, immaturity, ignorance is gang life. Help to get out of gangs - members of gangs? Why 99 ½% approx Latinos? Anglo students tired of classroom problems. Make gang members paint over graffiti? All of it...WHAT phone numbers do we call for help, reporting, etc. What % of g members are legal? We need to be informed about phone # to make reporting easier therefore we call."

"The Office of Crime Victims Fall report of 2009 reports that from 1991-2005, national homicide rates were consistently higher among young persons ages 10-24 years old. Our school counselors in middle and high schools focus more on students schedules and testing that they can't focus on emotional counseling. Is there a possibility of hiring or contracting counselors for the districts to be there for our students?"

"What is the penalty if you are caught doing graffiti? Is it adequate?"

"What about the gang groups other than The Groups 13 & 14?"

"Please continue your efforts are great. This is a big concern."

"I think that our Wenatchee valley citizens need to be inform of the importance and reasons of reporting burglaries and property's damage. We have people that believe that is not worth or necessary to call the police, since they would just give you a case #. In my case tonight 10-27 is the first time I heard reasons and the importance of reporting to our police everything." R.G.

"Many powerful people here tonight you can make a safer place for all. Please keep up your work towards a safer community, very powerful voices." Shirley

"What activities for 12-15, 16-older – can our community sponsor for our youth? i.e. employment, recreation, Adult experiences – business, banking, child raising. Collaboration. Responsibility."

"How do you get a kid involved in ART or FFT? Do they have to be involved in juvenile court?"

"I'm getting hungry. But this is good info. Thanks for this information."

"What signs should I be looking for?"

"Please try to relate this message on a weekly basis. Important topics to radio stations, El Mundo, Informe Hispano, continue the messages for all to know how important it is to relate serious topics."

"This is going to take some work. Tonight I learned a lot. I will relate all this to my family, friends, and neighbors. We should all help out to not tolerate what is happening."

"I congratulate everyone for this evening full of information and don't let it stop here. Informing people weekly would be good. A lot more people would listen."

"Very good evening full of important topics. I was very surprised, I will relate this to my friends. I was shocked as to how many people attended."

"For everyone who spoke tonight, reflect your hard work for a better youth and for your community as well."

"I would like to know if all the schools were informed. I did not receive no information. I came because I heard it on the Spanish radio station "La Nueva" with Jose Luis."

"I am a single mom and the ladies that presented the event seem very serious about the subject, please speak to all the schools. It was very interesting and thank you."

"I don't know of any gang name, but there is gangs. I'm against how they dress and I am afraid of them even though they might be nice people. But that's the way they like to live. I believe it is how their parents raise them, the example is important."

"My name is Bulmaro Farias. My opinion is the first school for our kids is our home, if us like parents spend more time with our kids, advise them and lead them through the right path with the help of schools and government. Thank you."

"Please try to organize something through radio and weekly information on this topic, like Norma said "serious" topics are never brought up or talked about."

"Many people that did not attend listen to the radio. Please talk about this on the radio."

"I have a neighbor that bought a house. His house has a fence and gang members painted over it. What can he do? Gangs put their signs and he would cover them up."

"I think all human beings should be more cautious about what is happening. Everyone is afraid to speak and prefer not to attend to conferences."

"Thank you to all responsible for supporting Hispanics 100%."

"What are you doing to people that don't attend the meetings? Why is it that people that really need help are not here attending?"

"I appreciate with all my heart to police, council and all personnel and the school district that try to help all Hispanics. Keep working together please."

City of Wenatchee's Diversity Council & Wenatchee School District
"Empowering Our Community: Addressing Gangs and Neighborhood Safety"
Tuesday, October 27th, 2009
Wenatchee High School Auditorium 6-8pm

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you been a victim of gang related crime?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have a family member, who is a gang member?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you have been the victim of a gang related crime, what type of crime was it?

- ☐ Graffiti
- ☐ Theft
- ☐ Assault
- ☐ Threats
- ☐ Other: _____

What is your overall perception of the problems created by gangs in Wenatchee?

- ☐ Small
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Large
- ☐ Very Large

In your opinion, what percentage of the crimes committed in Wenatchee (crimes of all types), are committed by people in gangs?

- ☐ Less than 10%
- ☐ 10 to 30%
- ☐ 30 to 50%
- ☐ More than 50%

If you were to guess, how many gangs members do you think there are in Wenatchee? ____

Understanding that every community has crime and issues associated with crime, how safe do you feel your house and neighborhood are?

- ☐ Very safe
- ☐ Safe
- ☐ Moderately safe
- ☐ Not safe

How familiar are you with gangs in Wenatchee? If you know the names of any gangs (a gang or group, not individual people) in Wenatchee, can you list them here?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Would you like to be part of a community coalition around gang violence? **YES** **NO**

THANK YOU for taking the time to complete this survey!

Concilio de Diversidad de la Ciudad de Wenatchee & Distrito Escolar de Wenatchee
"Apoderando a Nuestra Comunidad: Hablando de Pandillas y Seguridad en la Vecindad"

Martes, 27 de octubre del 2009

Auditorio de Wenatchee High School 6-8pm

¿Cómo se enteró de esta reunión?

- ☐ Periódico
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Por medio de otra persona
- ☐ Otro _____

¿Ha sido una víctima de un crimen relacionado con pandillas?

- ☐ SI
- ☐ NO

¿Tiene Usted a alguien en su familia que es un miembro de una pandilla?

- ☐ SI
- ☐ NO

Si Usted ha sido una víctima de un crimen relacionado con pandillas, ¿qué tipo de crimen fue?

- ☐ Graffiti
- ☐ Robo
- ☐ Asalto
- ☐ Amenaza
- ☐ Otro _____

¿Cuál es su percepción general de los problemas con pandillas en Wenatchee?

- ☐ Pequeño
- ☐ Mediano
- ☐ Grande (Grave)
- ☐ Muy Grande (Muy Grave)

En su opinión, ¿cuál porcentaje de los crímenes ocurridos en Wenatchee (cualquier tipo de éstos) han sido por pandillas?

- ☐ Menos del 10%
- ☐ Del 10 al 30%
- ☐ Del 30 al 50%
- ☐ Más del 50%

Si Usted fuera a adivinar, ¿cuántas pandillas piensa que hay en Wenatchee? _____

Teniendo en cuenta que en cada comunidad hay crímenes y problemas asociados con el crimen, ¿qué tan seguro se siente Usted en su hogar y vecindad?

- ☐ Bien seguro
- ☐ Seguro
- ☐ Moderadamente seguro
- ☐ Nada de seguro

¿Qué tanto conoce Usted de las pandillas en Wenatchee? Si sabe el nombre de alguna pandilla (el grupo, ningún nombre personal), favor de anotarlo abajo.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

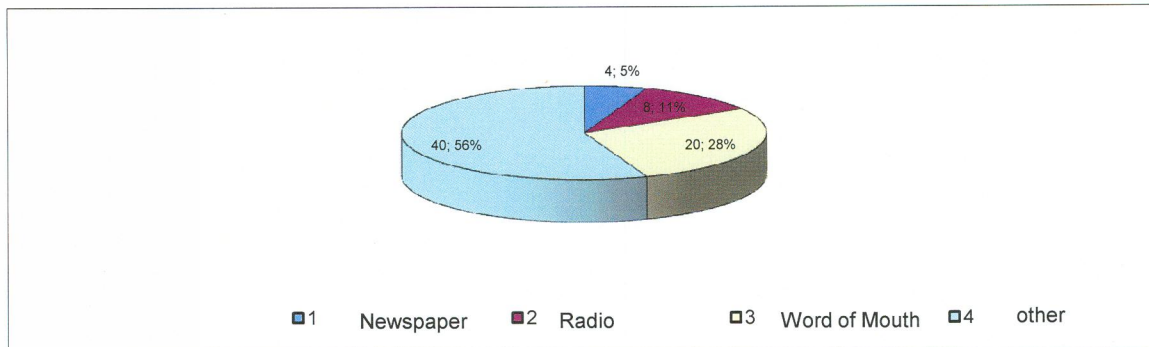
¿Le gustaría formar parte de la coalición comunitaria para resolver el problema de las pandillas? **SI NO**

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS por tomar tiempo para completar esta encuesta!

City of Wenatchee Diversity Council - Gang Town Hall Meeting October 27, 2009 Survey Results

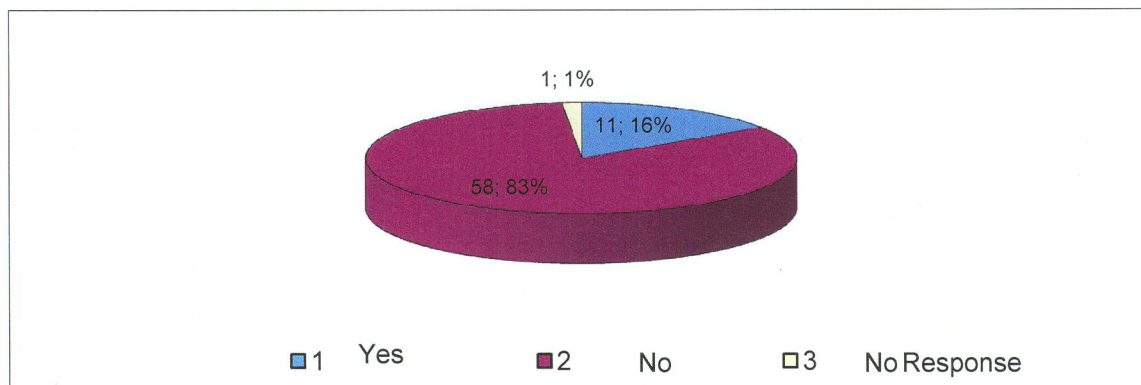
1. How did you hear about this meeting?

4 News paper
8 Radio
20 Word of Mouth
40 Other



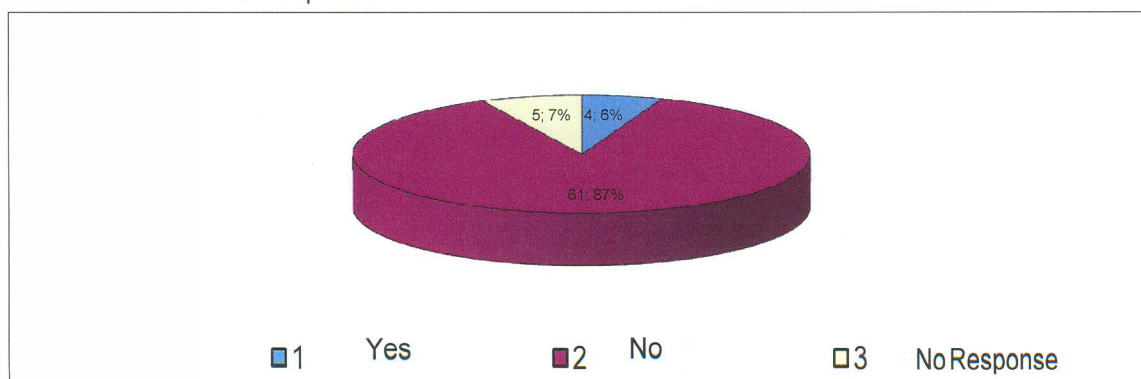
2. Have you been a victim of gang related Crime?

11 Yes
58 No
1 No response



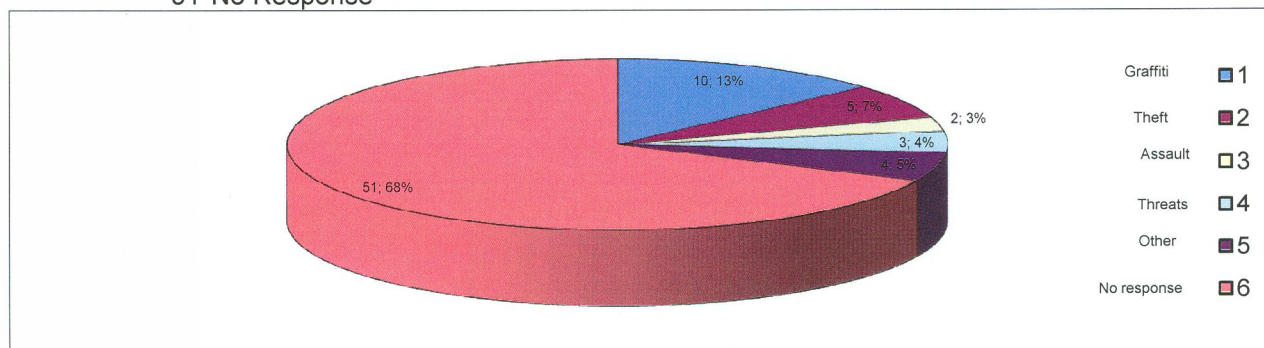
3. Do you have a family member, who is a gang member?

4 Yes
61 No
5 No Response



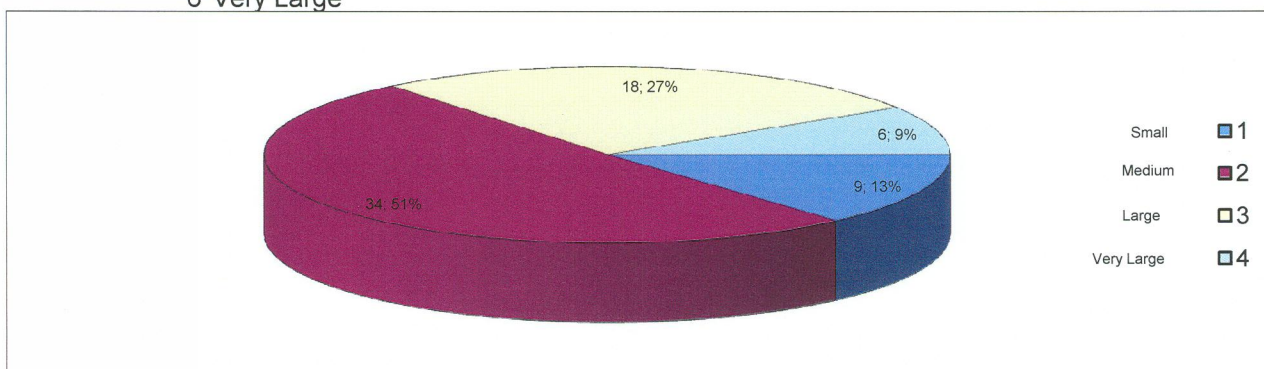
4. If you have been the victim of a gang relatd crime, what type of crime was it?

- 10 Graffiti
- 5 Theft
- 2 Assault
- 3 Threats
- 4 Other
- 51 No Response



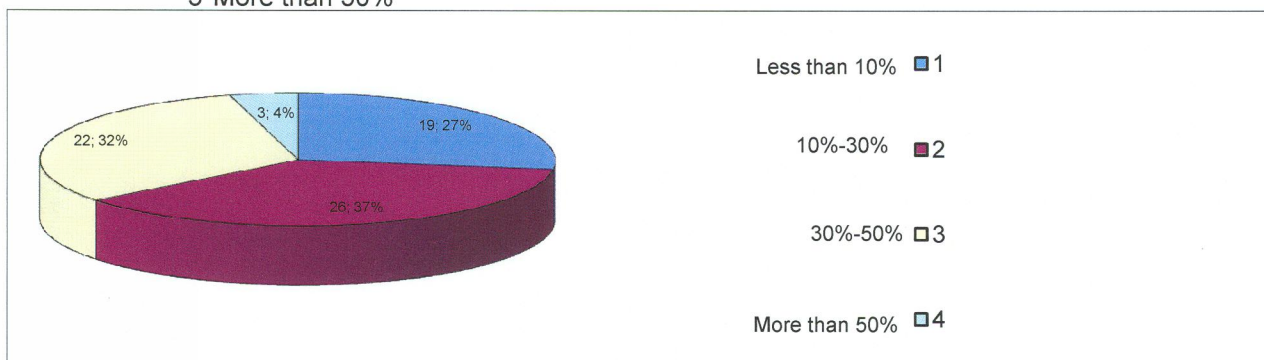
5. What is your overall perception of the problems created by gangs in Wenatchee?

- 9 Small
- 34 Medium
- 18 Large
- 6 Very Large



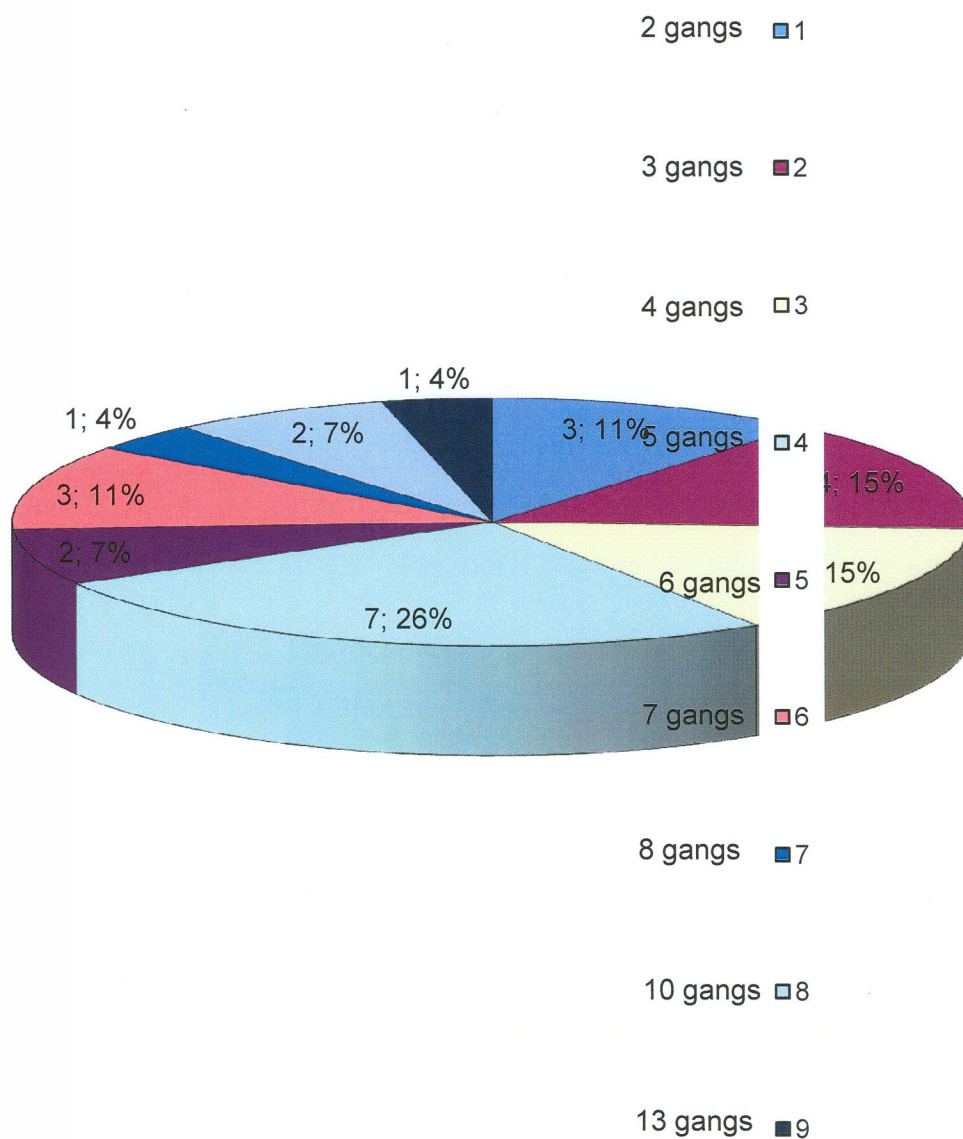
6. In your opinion, what percentage of the crimes committed in Wenatchee (Crimes of all types), are committed by people in gangs?

- 19 Less than 10%
- 26 10%-30%
- 22 30%-50%
- 3 More than 50%



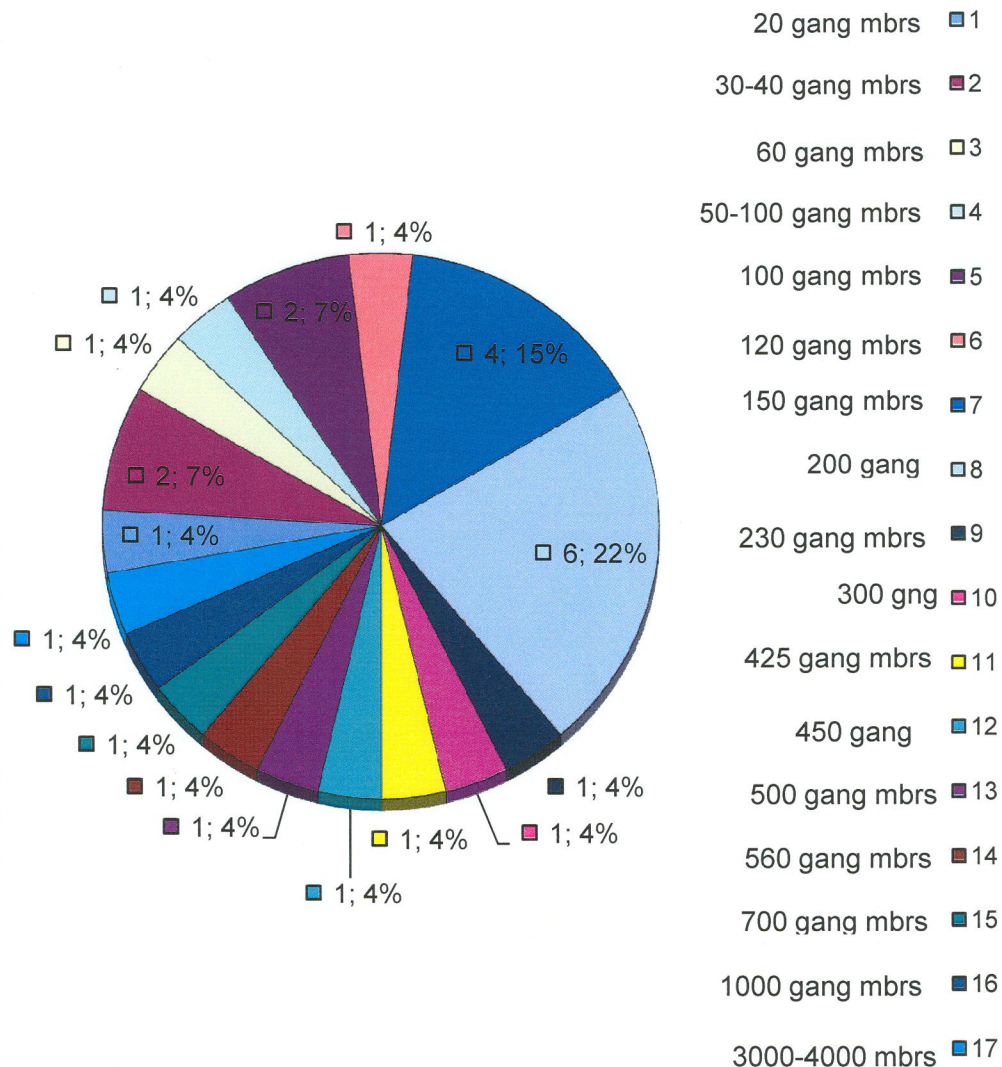
7B. If you were to guess, How many gangs would you think are in Wenatchee?

- 3 People thought there are 2 gangs in Wenatchee
- 4 People thought that there are 3 gangs in Wenatchee
- 4 People thought that there are 4 gangs in Wenatchee
- 7 People thought there are 5 gangs in Wenatchee
- 2 People thought there are 6 gangs in Wenatchee
- 3 People thought there are 7 gangs in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 8 gangs in Wenatchee
- 2 People thought there are 10 gangs in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 13 gangs in Wenatchee



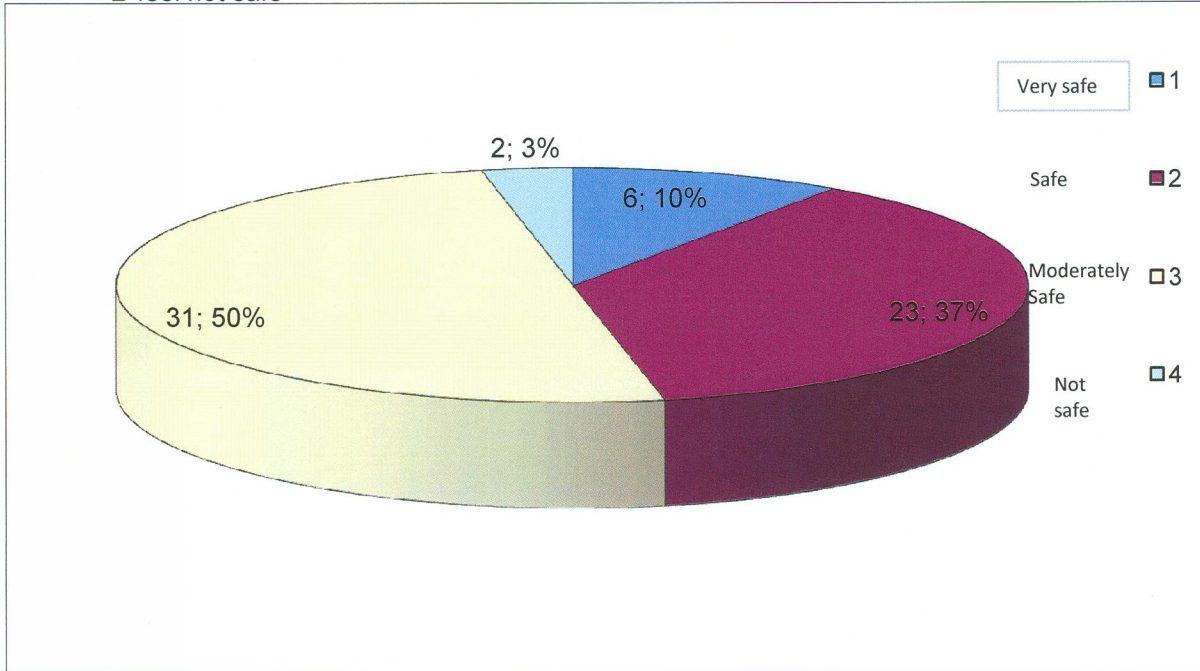
7A. If you were to guess, how many gang members do you think there are in Wenatchee?

- 1 Person thought there are 20 gang members in Wenatchee
- 2 People thought there are 30-40 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 60 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 50-100 Gang members in Wenatchee.
- 2 People thought there are 100 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 120 gang members in Wenatchee
- 4 People thought there are 150 gang members in Wenatchee
- 6 People thought there are 200 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought that there are 230 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought that there are 300 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 425 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 450 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 500 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 560 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 700 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 1000 gang members in Wenatchee
- 1 Person thought there are 3000-4000 gang members in Wenatchee



8. Understanding that every community has crime and issues associated with crime, how safe do

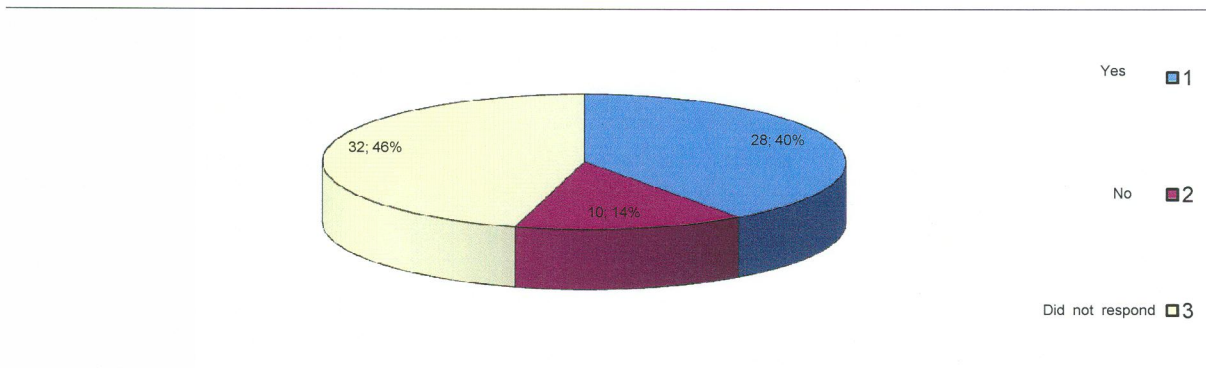
- 6 People feel very safe
- 23 People feel safe
- 31 People feel moderatley safe
- 2 feel not safe



9. How familiar are you with gangs in Wenatchee? If you know the names of any gangs (a gang or group, not individual people) in Wenatchee can you list them? don't know if this question was fully understood. In the 35 responses our of the 70 surveys there were mulitple gangs listed and n umbered up to 24 and several of them were mentioned many times.

10. Would you like to be part of a community coalition around gang violence?

- 28 Answered Yes
- 10 Answered no
- 32 Did not respond



Gang Forum Notes
11-17-09

1. What do you think is working?

- Lighted areas-Methow Park/store
Unmarked patrols
- Bus station/plaza
- Night court
- Remove graffiti
- Community awareness
- Caring people
- Frequent police patrols
- Neighborhood Watch Programs
- In school programs
- Merging resources/agencies
- Family functional parole-JRA (Emilio)
- Programs example ART, FFT At Risk Youth
- Community involvement
- Involved parents-taking an active role
- Police involvement
- Proactive Patrols (Police)
- Out of school activities (sports, YMCA, etc)
- Security at high school
- Compared to California, gangs are less here.
- Church: pastor church can help bring awareness to the issue. Awareness-church groups work together.
- Schools: monitoring to help parents enforcing dress codes schools are doing well, but need to do more
- Radio: Helps spread positive messages
- Newspaper: Get word out they provide light on the issue as Wenatchee grows we need to prepare ourselves parents, schools, community we need more
- ART/FFT programs at juvenile center (reducing recidivism)
- Strong social service awareness (churches too)

- Latino community interest/support
- Police presence/gang enforcement officer
- Solomon's Porch (drop in center)
- Meetings with Hispanic/Anglo population
- Graffiti removal law
- Groups meeting in schools discussing issue (PAC/PTSA's)
- Communication from radio/news media
- Beef up programs to keep various groups busy
- A place to hang out
- Need more ways to employ/keep youth busy
- Division of communities it is all of our issue
- Homeless teens, number is too large
- Authority removed from parents/dysfunctional families
- Accessibility of services to all (undocumented parents legal kids)
- Communication about available resources
- Clear communication facts about issues helpful tips recognizing signs
- Communication between youth, parents, schools and authorities - are kids left out?
- Gang peer pressure threats intimidation
- Law enforcement and probation
- Lack of communication between agencies, schools, people
- Threats
- Assuming someone else is going to fix the problem
- Lack of non prevention and intervention
- Parent involvement
- Lack of awareness
- Fear of sharing funding
- Allowing them to slip through the cracks
- Lack of support for single parents
- Many parents do not get involved to resolve the situation.
- Schools are not preventing kids to use inappropriate cloths, tatuajes artes etc.
- The game of soccer/Football is very popular with Latinos and every day there are fewer parks to play or practice in.
- People do not report crimes for fear.
- Lack or not enough parent involvement and attention.
- Lack of Parenting Education. Parents who have kids in gangs or in Juvenile detention should attend mandatory parenting classes.

- Make occupations for gang members.
- Parents are working long hours and do not know what is happening with their kids.
- Not enough awareness/publicity of programs.
- Lack of positive role models
- Police not seeing kids as kids- not enough sensitivity
- Need tougher sentences for gang members.
- More positive after school activities, starting in elementary school for all kids.
- School suspensions do not always work. – Punish students but keep them on Campus (Wash toilets etc.)

2. What's not working?

- City and schools not working together people do not go to meetings if any? – People need to push for attendance-hype up the event – providing food helps
- East Wenatchee and Wenatchee not working together is not helping the issue.
- Information is lacking – Parents need to be informed – educated more.
- Parents are not reporting criminal activity for fear of retaliation.
- Incarceration solely does not work. They (youth) need counseling services.
- Lack of parenting classes/Wenatchee law education. What are parent's rights?
- Lack of meeting for information
- Lack of staff in schools to support at risk youth. What is the ratio of gang identified youth to staff?

3. What is needed?

- Targeted/ protected money for programs
- Age appropriate programs (youth, middle school, high school)
- Changes in regulations to allow working, parental rights
- Cut red tape
- Uniformly enforced laws
- Better identification of resources & help
- Bring in experts from programs/ areas that are working

Sunnyside Gang Prohibition?

- Better Education of Parents- Parents rights/ responsibilities
- Individual Education Plan- i.e. mirror program for disabled students, etc.
- Partnership of Schools/ City/ Community for:
 - Enforcement
 - Education
 - Training
 - Identify issues (not race embrace)
- Authorities need to respond to pressures of kids, honor parents concerns.
- More consistent communication Policies/treatment
- More Communication
- Consistent Policies/Treatment

- Testimonies from former gang members
- Uniforms
- More education for youth & parents from professionals
- Develop neighborhood pride
- Prevention programs
- Neighborhood groups/ meetings
- Programs for Police to be more involved w/ kids – reducing fear of police
- Block Watch Programs
- 3 different numbers anonymous
- 24 hour phone numbers to report gang activities

4. What do you want/need to help you?

- place & things to do (affordable)
- early prevention
- Community Group
- Youth group in Churches
- mentoring/ peer mentoring/ adult mentors
- involve the kids & listen to them
- research affective programs in other areas

- Resources flyer delivered directly to troubled ones? Or individuals
- More information/ education to the parents to work with their kids (regarding gangs). More information/Education provided to parents so that they can work with their kids (regarding Gangs).
- More information inviting people to attend the meetings
- Uniforms for all
- Truce (No guns! No violence!)
- Programs to train youth (Identify youth and specifically help them)
- Get people to show youth that we care through programs- education.
- More counselors in schools (pros)
- More togetherness in all schools
- Classes in schools about negative aspects of gangs.
- More programs for parents- education! –required-
- More meetings- Don't give up on people.
- More radio involvement
- Invite members of surrounding areas
- Programs to motivate youth to do positive things
- How do we encourage youth to attend and be part of the solution?
- More intervention
- Lazy youth should be made to do community service

What is needed?
Additions 1/14/10

- February 19th: Sleeping Lady- 7:30 p.m. "Director of homeboy Industries" Father Greg Boyle. \$20.00 per person. He will discuss what he did to combat gangs in L.A..
- Schools being Proactive – Not Reactive
- Identify Ex Gang member for mentoring current gang members – Community mentoring - Parents support create committees (on gang intervention).
- Hold parents responsible – Criminal activities.
- Neighborhood (responsible groups) Neighborhood watch groups.
- Grants for family programs –Bill Gates for Community project on needs
- Early Childhood – Intervention: Head Start – Epic – Child Care
- Prosecution – Needs to change – more focused and stricter. Prosecute for offenses –not plead them down.
- Parents of children in gangs and that commit crimes required to attend classes on how to deal with it.
- Weekly Public announcements: Radio and News paper – Eye opener for Parents.
- *Parent Seminars for those afraid to enforce rules in the household.
- *More high school security.
- *School administrators more pro-active instead of reactive.
- *After school/Non profit programs.
- Better education for Parents & Children.
- Explore resources to have mandatory classes for parents & juveniles on Parenting, Communication and Anger management etc. at the same time in separate classrooms.
- Targeted/Protected monies\$\$ for programs
- Age appropriate programs
- Uniformly enforce laws
- Create a mentor program.
- Programs to eliminate Shadows – Physical hiding places.
- Make certain **Action** is taken for every call. Details: Who, what, when, where and how for every call.

- Identify who are gang members.
- Curfew law, with teeth.
- Early education regarding Long-term ramifications.
- Stricter laws for gang activity.
- Holding parents monetarily responsible for minors involved in criminal activities
- Maintain public awareness by continuing these events.
- Make sure to have resources available even with agency cuts. Identify reliable funding for Anti-gang efforts.
- Have parenting classes available.
- Identify good grant writer's with-in units, and then write for grants.
- Prosecution needs to be willing to prosecute.

*Note- these great ideas were thought of by two Wenatchee High School students. I was impressed – Guy Miner WPD

Top 10

- Graffiti removal
- Parental Class – Supply Ed. For youth.
- Funding/Resources.
- Alternative activities for youth (Clubs/anything besides gangs).
- Continue Community meetings!
- Mentoring programs.
- Developing Community pride.
- More Community togetherness! Wenatchee & East Wenatchee.
- More lights on city streets and Parks.
- Vecinos ayudar a limpiar el graffiti de su area. Con presupuesto de la ciudad.

Priorities

- Get funding (Gates Foundation) for youth and family programs.
- Weekly Eye opener Public service announcements on the radio, in the news paper etc.
- Sports Awareness and announcements (low cost and affordable for all families).

- Education – Communication that include culture (VIPS)
- Specialist on gangs in the schools.
- Public announcements on the Radio and in the News paper weekly.
- Core group to explore resources and to direct activities.
- Mandatory classes for offenders & their parents.
- Educate ALL ages.
- More activities for young adults.
- Identify successful ex-gang members from the community to be a mentor for the juveniles.
- Designate safe places in the community.
- Crear un comite especifico para solucinonar el problema de las pandillas.
- Respaldo total del comite creado (confianza).
- Ai,emtp de recursos y programas. Parra solucion de Pandillas.
- Numero aninimo para reportar actividades de pandillas.
- Educating parent's if/when, their child is in a gang.
- Holding parents accountable
- Early prevention starting in Elementary school
- Have an organization/person write grants for funding, Anti-gang activities.
- Local Prosecutor place higher priority on **prosecuting** gang cases. Community needs to push!
- Identifying money elsewhere.
- Organizations/committees to coordinate the various efforts against gangs in the community.
- More programs speaking out through news media.
- Improvements in County graffiti clean up.
- Parental Education
- Parental Responsibility
- All media Attention
- Gang member(s) Identification.
- In school programs and Early awareness
- Funding for Education
- Job Corps training – Mandatory?
- Gang accountability in courts.
- Mandatory education while incarcerated.
- Education= Power---Power= Effective Action

City of Wenatchee
Diversity Advisory Council
Gangs and Neighborhood Safety
Community Meeting 4.6.10

The City of Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council hosted a meeting on April 6, 2010 from 6 to 8 pm at the Wenatchee Community Center in order to distribute and review the Neighborhood Safety and Gangs Summary Report – “White Paper” (please note that participants last night strongly suggested that the summary document be named “Summary Report” instead of “White Paper” to avoid any confusion and possible racial references) and to identify agencies/organizations interested in coordinating and leading continuing efforts regarding Gangs and Neighborhood Safety.

After welcome and personal introductions, significant research findings concerning gangs was shared with participants which included:

1. Individuals in some way associated with gangs typically range from ages 9 or 10 up through about age 25 and usually can be grouped into three types:
 - a. Wannabes – tend to be younger and look to gang members as role models,
 - b. Fringe members or friends who have one foot in and one foot out of gang membership who associate with known gang members and may often display gang clothing/symbols/paraphernalia,
 - c. Core gang members who actively claim gang involvement and are often involved with crime and if school age, have discipline and academic problems at school.
2. The three action areas for dealing with gangs/neighborhood safety include:
 - a. Prevention-education and other activities to prevent gang involvement and membership, dealing with bullying and harassment and personal safety,
 - b. Intervention – activities to assist individuals with any type of gang involvement, school discipline/crime and/or safety issues and also families and victims of crime,
 - c. Suppression – incarceration, suspension/expulsion from school, other legal actions/sanctions.
3. Successful community efforts in dealing with gangs and neighborhood safety typically result from a coordinated and cohesive plan involving key constituents such as:
 - a. Law Enforcement – Police, Juvenile/Adult Probation, Courts, etc.
 - b. Schools
 - c. Social Service Agencies and Programs
 - d. Churches
 - e. Parents and individuals in the Community, i.e. the general Public

Participants (listed below) then shared what they are currently doing regarding gangs and neighborhood safety and/or what they/their agencies are willing to do.

1. Wenatchee Police Dept. – meeting with WSD to develop partnership to apply for federal funding to offer the GREAT Prevention and Intervention program at Elementary and Middle School
2. Washington Mariachi Academy will begin offering free/no cost Mariachi music classes for youth at the Community Center beginning on Monday as a positive prevention activity; donations are welcome
3. Head Start Family Program offers classes regarding personal safety and gang identification/prevention as well as weekly Wednesday visits by WPD Guy Minor to meet with parents and children
4. Family Planning willing to partner with other agencies for prevention/intervention efforts for gangs and neighborhood safety; currently have bilingual/bicultural staff who offer ed classes re sexual safety and HIV
5. Cashmere Valley Bank willing to sponsor weekly radio and/or newspaper announcements to keep public informed about neighborhood and personal safety and gangs
6. Centro Latino/CAFÉ willing to coordinate, organize and continue community efforts for neighborhood safety and gang prevention, intervention, suppression; willing to host neighborhood meetings as well as meetings with agencies.
7. Wenatchee Dispute Resolution Center offers mediation services in English and Spanish to deal with disputes and conflicts between any 2 parties which may include parent-child conflict
8. Wenatchee School District Family Services Program offers education and support to Migrant/Bilingual students and Families; WHS offers parent ed classes twice monthly, works with students having difficulties and willing to be involved with some type of prevention/intervention program such as the GREAT program
9. Crime Victim and Trauma Assistance Center/Domestic Violence Center offers educational presentations regarding signs/symptoms of domestic violence and how to prevent; also provides intervention services to victims
10. Wenatchee Community Center and Community Action willing to offer assistance for providing prevention educational activities/programs for community

In conclusion, Centro Latino/CAFÉ would like to know from Diversity Advisory Council if it has approval to take lead for organizing and coordinating continued efforts for neighborhood safety and gang prevention/intervention.